

<p><b>STRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION</b></p>	<p>Primary enclosures must be structurally sound and maintained in good repair. [3.6, 3.28, 3.53, 3.80, 3.104, 3.125]</p>
<p><b>Criteria:</b></p>	<p>Primary enclosures must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect the animal from injury</li> <li>• contain the animal securely</li> <li>• restrict entrance of other animals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Species Specific:</b></p>	<p><b>Dogs &amp; Cats</b></p> <p>Primary enclosures must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have no sharp points or edges that could injure the animal [3.6(a)(2)(I)]</li> <li>• keep the animal clean and dry [3.6(a)(2)(v)]</li> <li>• provide shelter and protection from extreme temperature and weather conditions [3.6(a)(2)(vi)]</li> <li>• provide sufficient shade to shelter all the animals in the enclosure at one time [3.6(a)(2)(vii)]</li> <li>• provide access to clean food and water [3.6(a)(2)(viii)]</li> <li>• enable all surfaces in contact with the animal to be cleaned and sanitized, or replaced when worn or soiled [3.6(a)(2)(ix)]</li> </ul> <p>Floors of primary enclosures must: [3.6(a)(2)(x)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect the animal's feet and legs from injury</li> <li>• not allow the animal's feet to pass through it</li> </ul> <p>If floor of primary enclosure is of mesh or slatted construction, it must: [3.6(a)(2)(xi)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have floors that do not sag or bend between the structural supports</li> <li>• have metal rods &gt;1/8 of an inch in diameter</li> <li>• have metal rods &lt;1/8 of an inch in diameter coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass</li> </ul>

*Dogs only* [3.6(c)(4)]

Permanent tethering is prohibited for use as a primary enclosure.

Temporary tethering is allowed if:

- 3 days or fewer with the approval of the APHIS inspector (verbal or written)
- longer than 3 days with written approval from APHIS Animal Care (AC) Regional Office

An approval request for tethering a dog longer than 3 days must:

- be in writing
- contain the reason/justification for tethering the dog
- contain the length of time the dog will be tethered
- be sent to the appropriate AC Regional Office

Factors to consider when approving or disapproving temporary tethering include, but are not limited to:

- reason for tethering, i.e., routine cleaning and/or maintenance
- availability of shelter
- length of tether
- type and strength of tether
- length of time on tether
- method of attachment of tether to animal
- possible entanglements with other animals or objects
- access to food and water
- breed and behavioral characteristics
- protection from predators
- safety of the animal from the public
- safety of the public from the animal

*Electric Fencing*

Electric fencing should **NOT** be used as the containment fence for primary enclosures for dogs. If the electric current fails:

- the dogs could escape, or
- other animals could enter the enclosure

NOTE: If electric fencing is being used, this should be cited under Section 3.6(a)(2)(iii) and (iv).

Other uses of electric fencing, such as separation of dogs within a primary enclosure or as an adjunct to the containment fencing, should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for compliance.

Some factors to consider when evaluating electric fencing used to separate dogs within an enclosure include, but are not limited to:

- safety for the dogs
- reliability
- effectiveness
- number of strands
- space between the strands
- closeness of the bottom strand to the ground
- back-up systems in case of power failure

If you are unsure of whether an electric fence is in compliance, you should contact your SACS.

*Cats only* [3.6]

Primary enclosures must contain:

- a receptacle with sufficient clean litter [3.6(b)(3)]
- a resting surface which is: [3.6(b)(4)]
  - ▶ elevated
  - ▶ impervious to moisture
  - ▶ easily cleaned and sanitized
  - ▶ replaced when soiled or worn
  - ▶ large enough to hold all the cats in the enclosure

*Mobile Housing for dogs & cats* [3.6(c)(4), 3.6(b)(5)]

While traveling, dog/cat primary enclosures must meet all the transportation requirements (see Transportation Section).

When not traveling, dog/cat primary enclosures must meet all minimum requirements for permanent primary enclosures.

### **Guinea Pigs & Hamsters**

Primary enclosures must:

- be constructed of smooth material which is impervious to moisture, including racks, shelving and other accessories [3.28(a)(1)]
- provide access to food and water [3.28(a)(2)]
- have floors that:
  - ▶ have clean bedding if solid [3.28(a)(3)]
  - ▶ allow feces to pass through if mesh or wire [3.28(a)(4)]
  - ▶ protect the animal's feet and legs from injury if mesh or wire [3.28(a)(4)]

### **Rabbits**

Primary enclosures must:

- enable the animal to remain clean and dry [3.53(a)(2)]
- provide access to food and water [3.53(a)(3)]
- have floors that:
  - ▶ protect the animal's feet and legs from injury
  - ▶ have litter if solid [3.53(a)(4)]
- have a nest box with clean nesting material if housing a female with a litter <1 month of age [3.53(a)(5)]

### **Nonhuman Primates**

Primary enclosures must:

- have no sharp points or edges that could injure the animal [3.80(a)(2)(i)]
- prevent accidental opening of the enclosure [3.80(a)(2)(iii)]
- prevent physical contact by unwanted animals [3.80(a)(2)(iv)]
- keep the animals clean and dry [3.80(a)(2)(v)]
- provide shelter and protection from extreme temperatures and weather conditions [3.80(a)(2)(vi)]
- provide sufficient shade to shelter all the animals in the enclosure at one time [3.80(a)(2)(vii)]
- provide access to clean food and water [3.80(a)(2)(viii)]

- enable all surfaces in contact with the animal to be cleaned and sanitized, or replaced when worn or soiled [3.80(a)(2)(ix)]
- have floors that protect the animal from injury [3.80(a)(2)(x)]

#### **Marine Mammals**

Nonfood items provided for environmental enrichment in the primary enclosure or pool must: [3.101(g)]

- be cleanable, sanitizable and/or replaceable
- be large enough and strong enough to prevent ingestion
- not be readily breakable
- not be likely to cause injury to the animal

#### **Other Animals**

Electric fencing may be acceptable for use as the primary enclosure for other animals. The use of electric fencing should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Some criteria to evaluate when determining if electric fencing is an adequate primary enclosure include, but are not limited to:

- type of animal in the enclosure, such as:
  - ▶ dangerous or non-dangerous
  - ▶ large or small
  - ▶ old or young
  - ▶ ability to jump over the fencing
- height of the electric fencing
- number of strands
- space between the strands
- closeness of the bottom strand to the ground
- back-up system in event of a power failure
- location of the enclosure, such as:
  - ▶ near a house or facility where it can be viewed
  - ▶ rural location
- other security measures

NOTE: Electric wire may also be used as an adjunct to conventional fencing.

